

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 19813 301828Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /078 W

----- 004981

R 301816Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1811

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS PARIS 19813

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, BR

SUBJECT: LE MONDE INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL SPINOLA

1. LE MONDE DATED JULY 31 CARRIES INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL SPINOLA BY ITS CORRESPONDENT CHARLES VANHECKE DATED LINE RIO DE JANEIRO, HEADLINED "EX-GENERAL SPINOLA DOES NOT DENY HAVING MET PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS IN EUROPE". AFTER DESCRIBING INTENSE ACTIVITY IN SPINOLA'S HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, VANHECKE SAYS SPINOLA EXPLAINED HIS REPLIES SHOULD BE READ "BETWEEN THE LINES" BECAUSE HIS POLITICAL REFUGEE STATUS REQUIRES DISCRETION. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS IN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION.

BEGIN TEXT: (SPINOLA) DOES NOT DENY REPORTS CONCERNING MEETINGS HE IS SAID TO HAVE HELD WITH MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY. BUT HE SAYS "I AM NOT TIED TO ANY POLITICAL PARTY, THOUGH MY IDEAS ON RECONSTRUCTING THE COUNTRY AGREE ON MANY POINTS WITH THE SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY; WHICH DOES NOT MEAN THAT I DO NOT CRITICIZE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 19813 301828Z

THE POSITION CURRENTLY TAKEN BY THE SOCIALIST PARTY

AND THE PPD.

ASKED WHETHER HE THINKS THE STREET MANIFESTATIONS COULD
CREATE A PUBLIC OPINION MOVEMENT CAPABLE OF CHANGING
THE MILITARY REGIME'S ORIENTATION, AND WHAT MIGHT BE
HIS ROLE IN THE CURRENT EVENTS, THE GENERAL'S RESPONSE
AGAIN WAS NOT DETAILED. LEAVING THE READERS TO INTER-
PRET, THE GENERAL SAID "WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING
IS NOTHING MORE THAN THE NATURAL AND SYSTEMATIC
UNROLLING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PROCESS. AS
TO THE WAY OF GETTING OUT OF THIS PROCESS, MY OPINION
IS THE SAME AS IT WAS TWO MONTHS AGO WHEN I WAS ASKED
WHO WOULD EMERGE VICTORIOUS FROM THE STRUGGLE FOR
POWER, SOARES, CUNHAL OR THE MFA AND I REPLIED, 'THE
PORTUGUESE PEOPLE'. THE MOST RECENT EVENTS CONFIRM
THIS POSITION. THE LAST WORD WILL BE THAT OF THE
PORTUGUESE PEOPLE WHO BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH
THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PURITY OF THE
APRIL 25 MOVEMENT HAS BEEN BETRAYED".

WHEREAS THE GENERAL WAS PESSIMISTIC THE LAST MONTHS,
NOW HE THINKS "DEMOCRACY CAN BE RE-ESTABLISHED, BUT
TO ACHIEVE IT, A LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY MUST FIRST
BE ESTABLISHED AND THIS MUST SERVE THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF AN AUTHENTIC DEMOCRATIC REGIME, ALIGNED WITH THE
WESTERN WORLD TO WHICH WE BELONG."

ASKED WHAT THE ARMED FORCES WILL DO, SPINOLA SAID
"THEY CANNOT AVOID CONFORMING TO THE DEMOCRATIC DESIRE
EXPRESSED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRY. (I HAVE)
EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE PATRIOTISM OF THE REAL
CAREER OFFICERS".

ASKED ABOUT HIS OWN PLANS, THE GENERAL REPLIED THAT HE
DID NOT INTEND TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF ABROAD. ASKED IF
HE INTENDED TO CREATE A MOVEMENT, SPINOLA SAID IT HAD
ALREADY BEEN CREATED, "RISING SPONTANEOUSLY FROM THE
MASS OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE".

PRIVATELY THE FORMER CHIEF OF STATE SAID THAT CREATING
A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE WOULD BE ADMITTING THAT THE
GAME IS LOST IN PORTUGAL. WHILE HE MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT
THE GAME WAS LOST THREE MONTHS AGO, APPARENTLY IT IS
NOT ANY MORE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PARIS 19813 301828Z

GAMMON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, EXILES, POLITICAL LEADERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS19813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750263-0885
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975078/aaaaahba.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LE MONDE INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL SPINOLA
TAGS: PFOR, PO, BR, (SPINOLA, ANTONIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006